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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An incubator for accommodating and holding at a predetermined constant temperature a dry analysis element spotted with a sample, comprising:

5 first and second blocks, at least one of which is movable towards and away from the other, for sandwiching therebetween the dry analysis element; and

a heater provided in at least one of the blocks,

wherein the first and the second blocks are brought  
10 into contact with each other for preheating the blocks before introducing the dry analysis element therebetween.

2. An incubator according to claim 1, wherein the heater is provided in the first block, which is a lower block, for temperature-controlling the lower block; the  
15 lower block and the second block, which is an upper block, are brought into contact with each other; the upper block is preheated by heat transmission; a dry analysis element is introduced and sandwiched between the lower block and the upper block; and the dry analysis element is heated by the  
20 heat of both blocks.

3. An incubator according to claim 1, wherein the dry analysis element is an electrolytic dry analysis element used for measuring the ion activity in a sample, and potential measuring probes are provided at the one block  
25 which is movable towards and away from the other of the

first and second blocks.

4. An incubator according to claim 2, wherein the dry analysis element is an electrolytic dry analysis element used for measuring the ion activity in a sample, and  
5 potential measuring probes are provided at the one block which is movable towards and away from the other of the upper and lower blocks.

5. An incubator according to claim 1, further comprising a cover made of a metal material which covers the  
10 second block, wherein the cover has a heat insulator placed at a part that contacts the second block.

6. An incubator according to claim 2, further comprising a cover made of a metal material which covers the upper block, wherein the cover has a heat insulator placed  
15 at a part that contacts the upper block.

7. An incubator according to claim 3, further comprising a cover made of a metal material which covers the second block, wherein the cover has a heat insulator placed at a part that contacts the second block.

8. An incubator according to claim 4, further comprising a cover made of a metal material which covers the upper block, wherein the cover has a heat insulator placed  
20 at a part that contacts the upper block.

9. An incubator according to claim 5, wherein the  
25 heat insulator of the cover is provided with a recess.

10. An incubator according to claim 6, wherein the heat insulator of the cover is provided with a recess.

11. An incubator according to claim 7, wherein the heat insulator of the cover is provided with a recess.

5 12. An incubator according to claim 8, wherein the heat insulator of the cover is provided with a recess.

13. An incubator according to claim 1, wherein the preheating time is changed according to the environmental temperature.